

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7251

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2013

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, HA

SUBJECT: ARA NARCOTICS CONFERENCE: HAITI

REF: STATE 227838

1. HAITIAN VIEW OF NARCOTICS PROBLEM. GOH SEES HAITI AS A TURNTABLE OVER WHICH PASS NARCOTICS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES ENROUTE TO U.S. HAITIANS BELIEVE THAT TO DATE THEY HAVE NO SERIOUS INTERNAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM INVOLVING CONSUMPTION BY HAITIANS AND THAT BULK OF MOVEMENTS THROUGH HAITI CONSIST OF MARIJUANA ORIGINATING IN JAMAICA. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY LEARNED FROM DEA HOWEVER THAT IMPORTANT AMOUNTS OF COCAINE ARE MOVING THROUGH HAITI TOWARDS U.S. FROM SOUTH AMERICAN POINTS OF ORIGIN. A CRYPTIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY PREFECT OF PORT-AU-PRINCE THREATENING FIRM ACTION AGAINST UNNAMED CLUB OWNERS SUGGESTS GOH BEGINNING TO SUSPECT ITS MARIJUANA PROBLEM MAY HAVE REACHED SOMEWHAT GREATER PROPORTIONS THAN HERETOFORE ASSUMED. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT CERTAIN CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND SHADY PRIVATE CITIZENS MAY BE INVOLVED IN TRANSSHIPMENT OF HEROIN OR COCAINE THROUGH HAITI TOWARDS U.S.

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2. HAITIAN COOPERATION WITH U.S. GOH HAS BEEN MOST

COOPERATIVE WITH U.S. AUTHORITIES TURNING OVER TO EMBASSY FOR RETURN TO U.S. 5 U.S. CITIZENS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES DURING A RECENT 2 MONTHS' PERIOD AND CONFISCATING ONE MARIJUANA HAUL OF 5 OUT OF AN INITIAL SHIPMENT OF 12 LARGE SACKS (EACH OVER 200 POUNDS), THE REMAINDER HAVING BEEN LOST OVERBOARD OR JETTISONED. THREE OF THESE U.S. CITIZENS ADMITTED TO MARIJUANA SMUGGLING IN PRESENCE OF DEA REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE BEING TURNED OVER. THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF GOH SECURITY SERVICES TOOK DEA SHORT COURSE IN SUMMER OF 1973 AND A SIMILAR GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME TRAINING IN DECEMBER 1973. GOH APPEARS RELUCTANT TO PROSECUTE AMERICANS ON DRUG CHARGES SINCE IT FEELS THEIR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES ARE PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S. AND BECAUSE IT IS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMPLICATIONS WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM IMPRISONMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS ON THESE GROUNDS.

3. HAITIAN ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES. GOH RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR COASTAL PATROL, SURVEILLANCE AND APPREHENSION OF DRUG SMUGGLERS ARE MEAGER AND ORIENTED PRIMARILY TOWARDS DETECTION OF ARMS SMUGGLERS AND POTENTIAL SUBVERSIVE INFILTRATORS. DESPITE ITS RELUCTANCE TO PROSECUTE AMERICANS FOR DRUG SMUGGLING, GOH WILL HAVE NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT LOCKING UP FOR A LONG TIME ANY AMERICANS CAUGHT IN ARMS TRAFFIC. GOH ESPIONAGE RESOURCES IN CARIBBEAN AREA ARE APPARENTLY CONSIDERABLE BUT UNSOPHISTICATED AND ALSO ORIENTED TOWARDS DETECTION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

4. POSSIBILITIES FOR STRENGTHENING HAITIAN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT. THE MOST USEFUL THINGS WE CAN DO IN HAITI IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF YEARS PROBABLY LIE IN THE AREAS OF STRENGTHENING AND STIMULATING GOH SURVEILLANCE, DETECTION AND APPREHENSION AND EXPULSION TO THE U.S. OF PEOPLE ENGAGED IN SMUGGLING TOWARDS THE U.S. AT PRESENT, THE HAITIAN NAVY'S CAPABILITY TO PATROL THE COUNTRY'S LONG COASTLINE AND DETER NARCOTICS SMUGGLING IN HAITIAN WATERS IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT, OWING TO A LACK OF TRAINED OFFICERS AND CREWS AND MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR CAPABILITY TO PERATE THE PATROL CRAFT ALREADY IN INVENTORY. SOME TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO THE HAITIAN NAVY (FORMERLY THE HAITIAN COAST GUARD) IN COASTAL PATROLLING, CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNICATIONS, AND NARCOTICS CONTROL WOULD APPEAR TO BE ONE OF THE MOST URGENT NEEDS OF AN EFFECTIVE HAITIAN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT. SINCE THE POLICE FUNCTION IN HAITI IS ALMOST ENTIRELY PERFORMED BY THE ARMED FORCES, INCREASING THE GENERAL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PATROL AND SURVEILLANCE WILL INEVITABLY IMPROVE THE HAITIAN ANTI-NARCOTICS CAPABILITY. WE CAN ALSO PROFIT BY THE FACT THAT GOH WELL UNDERSTANDS THAT PEOPLE WHO MOVE NARCOTICS THROUGH HAITI CAN ALSO MOVE ARMS.

ANY U.S. TRAINING EFFORT WHETHER CONDUCTED BY DEA OR
U.S. ARMED FORCES WILL DEVELOP PERSONAL AND INTER-SERVICE
RELATIONSHIPS WHICH SHOULD TEND TO HELP THE DEA EFFORT
IN THE LONGER RUN. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO PUBLICIZE IN
HAITI INDICTMENTS, CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES IN THE U.S.
OF PERSONS ARRESTED IN HAITI FOR PARTICIPATION IN SMUGGLING
DRUGS TO THE U.S. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO PUBLICIZE
I THE U.S. ANY FUTURE GOH CONFISCATION OF BOATS SEIZED
FOR DRUG SMUGGLING.
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